

# THE TIMES.

EVERY MORNING, EXCEPT MONDAY  
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THE TIMES is a member of the Associated Press—the greatest news-collecting association in the world—and receives over a special wire the full telegraphic news service of the Associated Press—the same news from all over the United States and the world that is simultaneously received by the great dailies of New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

## DECEMBER.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### LET OTHERS ALSO BE HAPPY.

The war talk of the past few days, although it showed a deep interest and true patriotism on the part of our people in the prospects of trouble between the United States and Great Britain over the Venezuelan boundary matter, has not had a depressing effect on business by any means. On the contrary, merchants and business men generally are well pleased with what has already been done in the line of Christmas sales, while increased activity is expected in all lines to-day. The stores are well stocked with everything needed at this season of the year, and the displays in some of the windows are marvels of taste in arrangement, as well as in the abundance and variety of the goods offered for sale.

The business streets have been thronged with people and the stores crowded with customers for several days, while at night, under the brilliant gas and electric lights the scenes are lively and inspiring. The fact that all the industries of the city are again in operation with constantly increasing payrolls has restored public confidence amazingly and made the Christmas so near at hand unusually bright in hopes and promises. Indeed the contrast with the same season for several years past is wonderfully in favor of this year. Everybody seems to have something to look forward to in the coming holidays, and all are making full preparations to enjoy them to the utmost. The days of idleness, depression and anxiety are over. Hope has taken the place of despondency and people feel that their faith in the future of the city is being rewarded by the rapid return of good times.

In the midst of the general enjoyment we must not forget that there are some on whom fortune has not smiled, and that it is our duty to aid them to the extent of our ability, so that they too can join in the Christmas festivities. To-day will be especially favorable for the manifestation of little kindnesses to our less fortunate friends and neighbors. Homes where grim want has been abiding can be given a ray of light and sunshine by little gifts to the parents for the children, so that on tomorrow morning when they look at their tattered little stockings, they will find that Santa Claus has not been unmindful of them, but in his travels through the city has called at the houses of the poor as well as the rich. Then, too, there may be some sick and weary person of your acquaintance to whom a little gift that cost you nothing, comparatively, will bring joy and gladness. Such as these remember for the sake of Him whose birthday you will commemorate to-morrow. He knew what want and suffering was and has enjoined on all His followers that they remember the poor and needy, whom we have always with us.

THERE is much speculation throughout the country as to whom the President will appoint as members of the Venezuelan commission; but on that point Washington officials are very reticent. As Congress has left the whole matter with the President, it is believed he will select men in every way qualified for the duties and responsibilities of the position. If they should decide that England's claims

are just there will be no further excuse for agitation; but in that improbable event the British Jingo would call it a square backdown on the part of this Government. In rising superior to their taunts under such circumstances, the United States would display a high degree of moral courage.

THE recommendation of the board of naval bureau chiefs that the bids of the Newport News Shipbuilding Company for the construction of two battleships be accepted, was what ought to have been done in the first instance, without any hesitation or delay whatever. As it is, the conditional transfer of the contract for one of the ships to the Union Iron Works, of San Francisco, threatens a division of the work, which hardly seems fair to the Virginia company. However, as there are six ships of the Kearsarge class to be constructed, and as the Newport News people have splendid facilities for that kind of work, the prospects are that the dockyards there will be the scene of activity and bustle for many months to come.

THE prospects for a short session of the present legislature are said to be very good, which information will be very gratifying to tax-payers generally. It is hoped, however, that the election laws of the State will be thoroughly overhauled, and all the changes necessary to insure a full, free and fair ballot made before adjournment is once thought of. The State may not need much legislation; but an amendment or repeal of the election laws now in force is of paramount importance.

CHRISTMASIDE brings no visitor more welcome than the special Christmas number of the Youth's Companion. Original, bright and striking, it is filled with a feast of good things, bringing pleasures alike to young and old. To the entire home circle its weekly visits are such a source of pleasure and profit that the small subscription price of \$1.75 should head the list of necessary household expenses.

### It May Do as Much For You.

Mr. Fred Miller, of Irving, Ill., writes that he had a severe kidney trouble for many years, with severe pains in his back and also that his bladder was affected. He tried many so-called kidney cures but without any good result. About a year ago he began use of Electric Bitters and found relief at once. Electric Bitters is especially adapted to cure of all kidney and liver troubles and often gives almost instant relief. One trial will prove our statement. Price 50c. and \$1. At Massie's Pharmacy, 109 Jefferson street.

Our readers who have been looking for Hood's calendar for 1896 will be glad to know that it is out and may be obtained from the druggists or by sending 6 cents in stamps to C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass. The new calendar is certainly a triumph of art. It represents a lovely head in beautiful brown tints, surrounded by a gold frame, embossed and decidedly "up to date." It makes a useful ornament for the home and a pleasant reminder of Hood's Sarsaparilla.

"THERE is music in the air!" Listen! Andrews' belted teams are delivering coal and wood to customers. Send in your orders.

THE Solomon Jewelry Company are selling goods at private sale between the regular auction sale at cost prices.

If you would have the largest stock to select from and wish to purchase at the lowest possible prices be sure and call at The E. H. Stewart Furniture Company for all articles in the furniture and carpet line.

THE best grate coal in the city is the semi-bituminous Red Ash coal, sold only by W. K. Andrews & Co., 219 Salem avenue. You may know their teams by the bells.

"CLEVELAND" and "Rambler" bicycles, 1896 models just received. They are beauties. Call at once at Roanoke Cycle Co.'s and see them.

Buy Brush Mountain coal from W. K. Andrews & Co., 219 Salem avenue. They will sell it cheaper than it has ever been sold in the city. Look out for the belted teams.

THE Pocket Kodak is not a plaything, but a complete little camera. One button does it; you press it. Roanoke Cycle Company, agents, 108 Salem avenue s. w.

"CLEVELAND" and "Rambler" bicycles, 1896 models just received. They are beauties. Call at once at Roanoke Cycle Co.'s and see them.

## Christmas Presents For Gentlemen.

If you're in doubt as to what to give your gentlemen friends, visit us, we're doubt-removers. Collars and Cuffs, Silk and Linen Handkerchiefs, Mufflers, Neckties, Gloves, Full Dress Chest Protectors, Silk Suspenders, Collar and Cuff Boxes, Cigar and Cigarette Cases, Hat Brushes, Traveling Bags, Full Dress Cases, Canes, Umbrellas, Link Cuff Buttons, Studs, Scarf Pins and Tie Holders.

FROM 25c TO \$25.

## GILKESON & CHILD,

HATTERS AND MEN'S FURNISHERS.

### Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

THE Best Salve in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Massie's Pharmacy, 109 Jefferson street.

"CLEVELAND" and "Rambler" bicycles, 1896 models just received. They are beauties. Call at once at Roanoke Cycle Co.'s and see them.

SEND your orders for coal and wood to Earman & Earman. They give honest weight and furnish clean coal. Give them an order and be convinced of the above facts. 108 Salem avenue s. w.

### TRIP TO A FIXED STAR.

Would Be a Long Journey Even With Transportation Facilities.

There is a perpetual fascination about the stars and the immense distances at which they lie from one another and from us. To demonstrate the vast distance of Centauri from this planet a popular scientist gives the following illustration in Answers: "We shall suppose that some wealthy directors, for want of outlet for their energy and capital, construct a railway to Centauri. We shall neglect for the present the engineering difficulties—a mere detail—and suppose them overcome and the railway open for traffic. We shall go further and suppose that the directors have found the construction of such a railway to have been peculiarly easy, and that the proprietors of interstellar space had not been exorbitant in their terms for right of way.

"Therefore, with a view to encourage traffic, the directors had made the fare exceedingly moderate—viz, first class at 1 penny per 100 miles. Desiring to take advantage of these facilities, a gentleman, by way of providing himself with small change for the journey, buys up the national debt of Britain and a few other countries, and, presenting himself at the office, demands a first class single fare to Centauri.

"For this he tenders in payment the scrip of the British national debt, which just covers the cost of his ticket, but at this time the national debt from little wars has been run up to \$1,100,000,000.

"Having taken his seat, it occurs to him to ask:

"'At what rate do you travel?'"  
"Sixty miles an hour, sir, including stoppages," is the answer.  
"Then when shall we reach Centauri?"  
"In 48,663,000 years, sir!"

### Misplaced Sympathy.

Under a spreading elm near the reptile house, in the Zoological gardens, there lies a nameless grave. A simple little rounded mound of earth, with no stone to mark it, but caressed by the soft tendrils of clinging ferns and moss, reposes at the foot of the forest Titan. It has been there many years—so many years that none of the keepers now employed about the gardens remembers when or how it came there. Thousands of curious people have strolled unheeding by the little grave, and not one has turned aside to shed a tear. Yes, there was one. He was a tall, slender young man, with a soulful and melancholy eye. He found the little grave, and he leaned against the trunk of the tall elm and fell to musing sadly. Superintendent Brown, happening along, called to the man that he was trespassing on forbidden ground. "Pardon me," said the sympathetic visitor. "I forgot myself in the sorrowful contemplation of this humble grave. Can you tell me who lies buried here?" "Oh," said Mr. Brown, "that's the grave of a Skye terrier, whose mistress, an eccentric old lady, requested permission to bury him there many years ago."

### The Lay of a Bachelor.

A bachelor old and cranky was sitting alone in his room. His toes with the gout were aching, and his face was o'erspread with gloom. No little one's shouts to disturb him—from noises the house was free. In fact, from cellar to attic 'twas as still as still could be. No medical aid was lacking. His servant answered his ring, respectfully heard his orders and supplied him with everything. But still there was something wanting, which he could not command—the kindly words of compassion, the touch of a gentle hand. And he said as his brow grew darker and he rang for the hired nurse. "Well, marriage may be a failure, but this is a jolly sight worse."—London Standard.

### ON THE WAR QUESTION.

Canada Regards the Matter More Seriously Than at First.

MONTREAL, Que., Dec. 23.—Canada is beginning to look a little more seriously than at first on the war question. The Fifty-ninth battalion, composed nearly entirely of Irish, with headquarters in St. Jerome, and on whom the first defence on the frontier south of Montreal would fall, cabled to Lord Salisbury: "Do not lose any sleep over the defense of our part of the frontier. We will triple our number of men if war should be declared."

The Montreal Star to-day offers to equip a regiment and look after the relatives of its men during the war if there should be one. It says:

"There has been a natural disposition on the part of the people of Canada to regard President Cleveland's message to Congress as the action of political trickery. For the United States to deliberately and without provocation force such a dire calamity as war with the most powerful empire on earth appeared more like the outcome of the drunken energy of an imperial despot than the deliberate act of the chosen leader of a free and enlightened people. But whatever might have been the motive for this action, which has such stupendous significance for us, or none at all, the manner of its reception by the press and people of the United States forbids Canadians from any longer ignoring it or treating it with indifference."

Philadelphia Bank Statement.  
PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 23.—The following is the statement of Philadelphia banks for the week ending Saturday, December 21: Loans and discounts, decrease, \$564,000; lawful money, increase, \$32,000; due from other banks, decrease, \$311,000; due to other banks, increase, \$609,000; deposits, decrease, \$1,643,000; circulation, increase, \$75,000.

The Vienna Bourse Firmer.  
VIENNA, Dec. 23.—Business on the bourse to-day closed firmer. This was on account of the calmer manner in which the Venezuelan controversy was being treated in the United States.

FOR the largest stock and lowest prices in dinner, tea and toiletware call at The E. H. Stewart Furniture Company.



W. G. Skinner is one of the best known men in Wakefield, Mass. He is a war veteran and everybody's friend. He says: "I had rheumatism and was in poor health a long time. Indications pointed towards the accumulation of impurities in the blood and germs of disease. I was constipated and had no appetite. I evidently needed a good blood purifier and decided to take Hood's Sarsaparilla. It made a change all through my system, gave me an appetite and worked effectively on my blood. I am now perfectly well, my blood has been put in good order, thanks to Hood's." W. G. SKINNER.

**Hood's Sarsaparilla**  
Is the Only  
**True Blood Purifier**

Prominently in the Public Eye Today.

**Hood's Pills** easy to buy, easy to take, easy in effect. 25 cents.

## Gift Hunting!

### We Know

Of no surer or safer place than right here to find what you want. If you are seeking substantial presents, such as Men and Boys' Clothing, you will find our prices just, without announcing any so-called selling-out or other make-believe sales.

### A Few Pointers:

Silk Initial Handkerchiefs, Suspenders, Gloves, Wool Sweaters, Umbrellas, Canes, Mufflers, Night Robes, White and Colored Shirts, Underwear, Collars, Cuffs, Hats, Caps, etc.

## ELEGANT TIES, 25c AND 50c.

All Styles and Shapes. No Such Display in the City.

Depend on our prices being 25 to 50 per cent. under others.

## Philadelphia One Price Clothing House.

### MANUFACTURERS

—OF—

## WOOLENS

AND

## CUSTOM TAILORING.

Business Suits to Order . . . . . \$14.00

Elegant Clay Weave Suits . . . . . \$25.00

Specialties in Suits . . . . . \$10.00

ALL-WOOL BLANKETS: 11-Quarters, 7½ Lbs., \$8.50 Per Pair.  
KNITTING YARN: Double and Twisted, 50c Per Bunch.

NO READY-MADE.

**BONSACK BROS.,**  
210½ and 212 SALEM AVENUE.

## INVITATION.

WE RESPECTFULLY INVITE THOSE WHO DESIRE HOUSE FURNISHING GOODS to take a look over our stock. Perhaps we have something that you wish. Is it Carpet or Rug? Perhaps it is Blankets or Comforts. Is it a Parlor, Bed or Dining Room Suite? We have all styles of Stoves. Do you need any? Perhaps it is a Dinner or Tea Set you need. We have the prettiest you ever saw. Our Toilet Sets are beauties. Is it a fine Album, a thing that adds comfort to the home we can furnish it as high in grade, as low in price, and on as easy terms as any house in the city. Come and see for yourselves.  
Yours to please,

**CINCINNATI INSTALLMENT CO.,**  
201 and 203, corner Commerce Street and Salem Avenue.

## THE

## "MAJOR'S SEAL"

## 5c. Cigar

LEADS THEM ALL

It is Made of the Finest Stock Obtainable for a Nickel Smoke.

## "La Flor de Hotel Roanoke,"

Leading 10c. Cigar.

## CONSOLIDATED CIGAR CO.,

Manufacturers.

All Dealers Have Them.

# AUCTION!

—AT—

## SOLOMON JEWELRY CO.'S Store,

Commencing Saturday, December 14.

Having decided to retire from the jewelry business, my entire stock will be sold at public auction. Watches, Diamonds, Jewelry, Silverware, Clocks, Bric-a-bac, Fixture—all will be sold regardless of cost or value without reserve or limit. "What is our loss is your gain." A chance of a lifetime. Everything goes at your own price. Sale commences each day at 10 a. m., 2 p. m. and 7 p. m. until all is sold.

## SOLOMON JEWELRY CO.,

104 SALEM AVENUE.